Amendments to the Claims

1   (Currently Amended) A system for training at least one ~~or more~~ students over a communication ~~connection~~ channel, comprising:

~~an automation control system for executing a sequence of commands to control a plurality of production devices to thereby produce a show or a show segment;~~

tutorial processing means for providing a lesson to a client associated with a student to guide the student in the preparation of a sequence of commands to control a plurality of media production devices to produce at least one live or live-to-tape show segment, wherein at least one of said tutorial processing means and said client includes means for transmitting a command to initiate execution of said sequence of commands; ~~and~~

an automation control system for receiving and executing the sequence of commands to control the plurality of media production devices to produce the live or live-to-tape show segment; and

communications means for supporting bidirectional communication over the communication channel among said automation control system, said tutorial processing means, and said client.

2.   (Currently Amended) A system of claim 1, wherein said tutorial processing means further comprises:

interrogation means for sending a ~~lesson quiz or a lesson~~ test to said client for use by the student, wherein said client includes an input interface for permitting a student to interact with said ~~lesson quiz or said lesson~~ test;

evaluation means for determining the performance of said student on said ~~lesson quiz or said lesson~~ test; and

guidance means for sending a study guide to said client for use by the student, the study guide based on said performance on said ~~lesson quiz or said lesson~~ test.

3.   (Previously Presented)   A system of claim 1, wherein said communications means further comprises means for supporting said bidirectional communication over the Internet.

4.   (Currently Amended)   A method for training one or more students over a ~~connection~~ communications channel, comprising the steps of:

sending a lesson from a tutorial processing means over the ~~connection~~ <u>communications channel</u> to a client associated with a student, wherein said lesson includes an assignment to ~~prepare pre-production instruction~~s <u>produce commands</u> to operate at least one of a plurality of <u>media</u> production devices to produce a <u>live or live-to-tape</u> show ~~or a show~~ segment;

receiving data, from said student, ~~in~~ <u>at</u> said tutorial processing means in response to said lesson;

processing said data according to programmed instructions; and

sending feedback to said student.

5.   (Currently Amended)   A method of claim 4, wherein said assignment includes directions to prepare a production script and define a sequence of production commands that, when executed, send<u>s</u> control commands to automatically operate said at least one of a plurality of <u>media</u> production devices to produce said <u>live or live-to-tape</u> show ~~or said show~~ segment.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method of claim 5, wherein said sequence includes instructions to <u>perform at least one of the following tasks:</u> transmit media segments, assign transition effects, send text to a teleprompting means, or control camera shots.

7.   (Previously Presented)   A method of claim 4, wherein said lesson comprises text, video graphics and animation.

8.   (Original)   A method of claim 4, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of sending a study guide based on said data to said student.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of claim 4, further comprising the step of sending at least one ~~lesson quiz or lesson~~ test to said student.

10.   (Original)   A method of claim 9, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of determining the performance of said student on said lesson quiz or said lesson test.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of claim 10, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of sending a study guide based on said performance on said ~~lesson quiz or said lesson~~ test.

12.   (Currently Amended)   A method of claim 4, wherein said ~~connection~~ communications channel comprises the Internet.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method for producing ~~video or media~~ content ~~for remote educational sessions from a production environment to one or more clients~~, comprising the steps of:

(a)   distributing ~~a lesson~~ to at least one client associated with a student a lesson to guide the student in preparing a sequence of production commands for controlling the operation of a plurality of media production devices to produce at least one live or live-to-tape show segment;

(b)   receiving via the client ~~enabling preparation of~~ a the sequence of production commands to control a plurality of media production devices to ~~thereby create~~ produce the live or live-to-tape ~~a show or a~~ show segment ~~representative of an educational session corresponding~~ responsive to said lesson; and

(c)   authorizing execution of said sequence of production commands ~~to create~~ produce said live or live-to-tape show ~~or said show~~ segment.

14.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) further comprises the step of:

evaluating said sequence, wherein said authorizing occurs in response to a favorable evaluation.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 14, wherein step (c) further comprises the step of:

presenting an evaluation report to enable a user to correct or refine said sequence prior to said authorizing.

16.   (Currently Amended)   A method for interactive training, comprising the steps of:

(a)   providing accessing to a lesson that presents instructions regarding how to prepare a sequence of commands to control a plurality of media production devices to produce at least one live or live-to-tape show segment;

(b)   receiving a sequence of production commands to control the plurality of media production devices to produce the live or live-to-tape show segment responsive to said lesson providing instructions to prepare a sequence of commands to control a plurality of production devices to thereby create a show or a show segment representative of an educational session corresponding to said lesson; and

(c)   executing said sequence of production commands to create produce said live or live-to-tape show or said show segment.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein step (a) comprises the step of:

accessing at least said lesson or a part of said lesson from a local storage medium.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein step (a) comprises the step of:

accessing said at least part of a lesson through a wireless interface with a remote medium.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

(d)   including commands in said sequence to allow distribution of said live or live-to-tape show or said show segment over the Internet.

20   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

(d)   including commands in said sequence to allow distribution of said live or live-to-tape show or said show segment to one or more destinations.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing training sessions, comprising the steps of:

(a)   authorizing a user to access a lesson during a training session providing instructions regarding how to prepare a sequence of commands to control a plurality of media production devices, including at least one of a video switcher, digital video effects device, teleprompting system, and studio lighting, to produce at least one live or live-to-tape show segment;

(b)   distributing said lesson to a device associated with said user;

(c)   <u>receiving from the user said sequence of production commands to control the plurality of media production devices to produce the live or live-to-tape show segment responsive to said lesson</u> ~~enabling preparation of a sequence of commands to control a plurality of production devices to thereby create a show or a show segment in response to accessing said lesson, said show or said show segment being representative of an educational session corresponding to said lesson, said production devices including at least one of a video switcher, digital video effects device, teleprompting system, and studio lighting~~; and

(d)   authorizing execution of said sequence to ~~create~~ <u>produce</u> said <u>live or live-to-tape</u> show ~~or show~~ segment.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein step (a) <u>further</u> comprises the step of:

~~verifying~~ <u>receiving</u> <u>a</u> payment for said ~~training session~~ <u>lesson</u>.

23.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein step (a) <u>further</u> comprises the step of:

accepting <u>an</u> electronic payment for said ~~training session~~ <u>lesson</u>.

24.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein step (a) <u>further</u> comprises the step of:

evaluating user performance on past lessons, wherein said authorizing occurs in response to a favorable evaluation.

25   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein step (a) <u>further</u> comprises the step of:

authorizing access in response to determining said user is approved to access said lesson.

26.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein step (a) <u>further</u> comprises the step of:

~~tracking or marking~~ <u>indicating</u> ~~the~~ placement of said user within a plurality of lessons.

27   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 21, wherein step (a) <u>further</u> comprises the step of:

authenticating <u>the</u> user ~~identity~~ to implement said authorizing.

28.   (Currently Amended)   A method for providing training, comprising the steps of:

(a)   distributing <u>to a user</u> a lesson ~~to a device associated with a user~~ <u>providing instructions regarding how to prepare a sequence of commands to control a plurality of media production devices, to produce at least one live or live-to-tape show segment</u>;

(b)   <u>receiving from the user said sequence of production commands to control the plurality of media production devices to produce said live or live-to-tape show segment responsive to said lesson</u> ~~enabling preparation of a sequence of commands to control a plurality of production devices to thereby create a show or a show segment representative of an educational session corresponding to said lesson~~;

(c)   authorizing execution of said sequence to ~~create~~ <u>produce</u> said <u>live or live-to-tape</u> show ~~or said show~~ segment; and

(d)   allowing access to a messaging center during ~~a~~ training ~~session~~.

29.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein step (d) <u>further</u> comprises the step of:

sending an announcement to ~~one or more~~ <u>at least one</u> users.

30.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein step (d) <u>further</u> comprises the step of:

alerting said <u>at least one</u> user to access said messaging center ~~or read a message designated for said user~~.

31.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein step (d) <u>further</u> comprises the step of:

posting a message from said <u>at least one</u> user for access by <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ other users.

32.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein step (d) comprises the step of:

authenticating <u>said at least one</u> user ~~identity to enable said user to read or post a message~~.

33.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~production training~~ system, comprising:

an instructor interface for enabling lesson planning;

a client for <u>providing</u> ~~accessing~~ to at least one ~~or more~~ lessons<u>, offering instructions</u> <u>regarding how to prepare a sequence of commands to control a plurality of media production</u> <u>devices, including at least one of a video switcher, digital video effects device, teleprompting</u> <u>system, and studio lighting, to produce at least one live or live-to-tape show segment</u>;

a curriculum controller for distributing <u>the at one least lesson to a user to prompt the user</u> <u>to prepare the sequence of commands</u> ~~one or more lessons, wherein one of said one or more~~ ~~lessons includes student instructions for preparing a sequence of commands to control a plurality~~ ~~of production devices to thereby create a production, wherein said production devices include at~~ ~~least one of a video switcher, digital video effects device, teleprompting system, and studio~~ ~~lighting~~; and

an automation control system for <u>receiving the sequence of commands prepared by the</u> <u>user responsive to the at least one lesson and for</u> executing said sequence to ~~create said~~ ~~production~~ <u>produce said live or live-to-tape show segment</u>.

34.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 33, further comprising:

<u>a</u> communicator disposed at said client, wherein said communicator enables <u>at least one</u> <u>of a</u> voice or video ~~transmissions~~ to <u>at least one of</u> a second client or said instructor interface.

35.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein said instructor interface includes means for blocking user access to said <u>at least a</u> ~~one or more lessons or to~~ a portion of said <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons.

36.   (Currently Amended) A ~~production training~~ system, comprising:

a client for <u>providing</u> ~~accessing~~ to at least one ~~or more~~ lessons <u>offering instructions</u> <u>regarding how to prepare a sequence of commands to control a plurality of media production</u> <u>devices, to produce at least one live or live-to-tape show segment</u>;

a matriculation controller for registering a user <u>to</u> ~~for~~ accessing said <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons, ~~wherein one of said one or more lessons includes student instructions for preparing a~~ ~~sequence of commands to control a plurality of production devices to thereby create a~~ ~~production~~; and

an automation control system <u>for receiving said sequence of commands prepared by the</u> <u>user responsive to said at least one lesson and </u>for executing said sequence to ~~create said~~ ~~production~~ <u>produce said live or live-to-tape show segment</u>.

37.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 36, wherein said matriculation controller includes security means for governing access to said <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons.

38.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 36, wherein said matriculation controller includes payment means for ~~accepting or~~ verifying payment for accessing said <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons.

39.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 36, wherein said matriculation controller includes collection means for invoicing a user for accessing said <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons.

40.   (Currently Amended)   A production training system, comprising:
an instructor interface for enabling lesson planning;
a curriculum controller for distributing <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons~~, wherein one of said~~ ~~one or more lessons~~ <u>that</u> includes instructions for preparing a sequence of commands to control a plurality of <u>media</u> production devices to ~~thereby create~~ <u>produce</u> at least one live or live-to-tape show ~~or show~~ segment in response to executing said lesson; and
an automation control system for <u>receiving said sequence of commands prepared by the</u> <u>user responsive to said at least one lesson and for </u>executing said sequence to ~~create~~ <u>produce</u> said live or live-to-tape show ~~or said show~~ segment.

41.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~production training~~ system, comprising:
a curriculum controller for distributing <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons, ~~wherein one of said~~ ~~one or more lessons~~ <u>that</u> includes instructions for preparing a sequence of commands to control a plurality of <u>media</u> production devices to ~~thereby create~~ <u>produce</u> at least one live or live-to-tape show ~~or show~~ segment in response to executing said lesson; and
an automation control system <u>for receiving said sequence of commands prepared by the</u> <u>user responsive to said at least one lesson and </u>for executing said sequence to ~~create~~ <u>produce</u> said live or live-to-tape show ~~or said show~~ segment.

42.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~production training~~ system, comprising:

a client for accessing <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons;

a curriculum controller for distributing <u>said at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons~~, wherein one of said one or more lessons~~ <u>that</u> includes instructions for preparing a sequence of commands to control a plurality of <u>media</u> production devices to ~~thereby create a production~~ <u>produce at least one live or live-to-tape show segment</u> in response to accessing said lesson, wherein said production devices include at least one of a video switcher, digital video effects device, teleprompting system, and studio lighting; and

an automation control system <u>for receiving said sequence of commands prepared by the user responsive to the lesson and</u> for executing said sequence to ~~create~~ <u>produce</u> said ~~production~~ <u>live or live-to-tape show segment</u>.

43.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~production training~~ system, comprising:

a plurality of training groups, wherein each training group includes a plurality of clients ~~for~~ <u>each</u> accessing <u>at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons~~,~~ wherein each training group ~~is in communications~~ <u>communicates</u> with an instructor interface for enabling lesson planning;

curriculum controller for distributing <u>said at least</u> one ~~or more~~ lessons~~, wherein one of said one or more lessons~~ <u>that</u> includes instructions for preparing a sequence of commands to control a plurality of <u>media</u> production devices to ~~thereby create~~ <u>produce at least one live or live-to-tape</u> a show ~~or a show~~ segment in response to accessing a lesson; and

automation control system <u>for receiving said sequence of commands prepared by the user responsive to said at least one lesson and</u> for executing said sequence to ~~create~~ <u>produce</u> said <u>live or live-to-tape</u> show ~~or said show~~ segment.